

THE
BONDS OF REASONING

Spiral



1

Story by Kyo Shirodaira
Art by Eita Mizuno



Spiral

THE BONDS OF REASONING

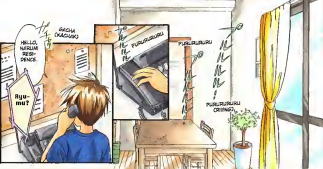
STORY/KYO SHIRODAIRA

ART/EITA MIZUNO



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I MUST INVESTIGATE, FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUTH.



I MUST INVESTIGATE, TO PROTECT THE ONES I LOVE.



CHAPTER ONE

The Invisible Hand on the Landing (Part I)



...TO SURPASS MY BROTHER!



...TO SURPASS MY BROTHER!

I MUST INVESTIGATE...

CHAPTER ONE

The Invisible Hand on the Landing (Part I)



Spirit THE BONDS OF REASONING



I
DREAMT
OF THAT
DAY
AGAIN...

OH
CRAP...

I
OVER-
SLEPT...



PRIVATE HIGH
SCHOOL TSUKIDOMI
10TH GRADER
AYUMU NARUMI

DATA
(LUTTER)

ま!
く

BOOK TOLD A ROAD TO YOU

TSUKIDOMI
HIGASHI
(CHURCH)

IT WAS
TODAY,
WASN'T
IT?

TWO
YEARS
AGO...

...OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.

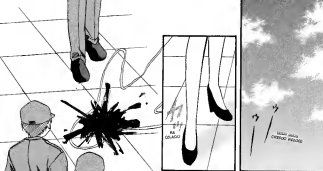
THE
DAY MY
BROTHER
DISAP-
PEARED...

KYAA-
AAA!!!

SAYAH!!
[CLAMOR]

HUH?





SHE FELL
FROM THE
EMERGENCY
STAIR-
WELL ON
THE SIXTH
FLOOR...

GU
CHANG

GU
CHANG

HER
NAME'S KANA
MUNEMiya, AN
11TH GRADER
IN CLASS
F HERE AT
TSUKIOWE.

身分証

学年 11年F組
氏名 幸屋可奈



11TH
SCHOOL YEAR, 11TH GRADE, CLASS F
NAME: KANA MUNEMIYA

い-い-い-
LIEUTEN-
ANT!!

WHAT'S
THIS?

A
PHOTO...

LIEUTENANT
MADOKA
NARUMI

A SHAME
REALLY...



SHALL WE
BET DINNER
ON WHICH
IT IS?



MUR-
DER...

SUI-
CIDE...

ACC-
IDENT...

WE HAVE
OUR PICK
OF POS-
SIBILITIES.
DON'T
WE?



AAAA...



TAKE
CARE
OF
THIS
FOR
ME.

SO SHE
FELL—
FROM
ALL THE
WAY UP
THERE.
HMT?

YES,
WATAYA.



FIRST,
LOOK AT
THE SCENE
OF THE IN-
CIDENT AND
THEN GIVE
ME YOUR
ANSWER.

AH...
OH-W-
WH...

WATAYA.









MY
FRIEND
TSUJII-KUN
AND I WERE
HAVING A
NICE TALK
WHEN...



ACCORDING
TO OUR
EYEWIT-
NESS,
MIZUE
NOHARA-
SAN...



I WAS KIND
OF FAR OFF,
BUT I KNEW
IT WAS KANA
RIGHT AWAY.

"WHAT WAS
THAT...?"
I WONDERED,
AND WHEN
I TURNED
AROUND,
I SAW A
PERSON
FALLING...



...WE
SUDDENLY
HEARD A
TERRIBLE
SCREAM.

STUNNED

KYAA-
AAA!!







AND YOU DIDN'T SEE ANY SUSPICIOUS FIGURES FLEEING FROM THE EMERGENCY EXIT?

NOPE,
NO ONE.



NOT
CUTE



I GOTTA
ADMIT, IT
SPARKED
MY INTER-
EST.

CAN
YOU
BLAME
ME?



ANY-
WAY...



COULD IT
BE MR.
POLICE-
MAN'S
DOUBTING
ME?

WHO YOU
CALLIN'
OLD MAN?
I-I'M
NOT
EVEN...!

NO
ONE,
EH?

LISTEN,
OLD
MAN.



IN
THE END,
YOU'LL SETTLE
FOR EITHER
AN ACCIDENT
OR SUICIDE,
RIGHT?

THAT
FRIEND OF
HERS IS
JUST BEING
OVERLY
EMOTIONAL.



'SIDES,
THE
FENCE
WAS
ALREADY
IN BAD
SHAPE.

ACCORD-
ING TO THE
GROUNDS-
KEEPERS...

BUT WE'VE
CONFIRMED
THAT IT
WOULD GIVE
WAY ONLY
WHEN PUSHED
AGAINST WITH
CONSIDERABLE
FORCE!

...THE
BOLTS
ON THE
FENCE
HAVE
ALWAYS
BEEN
WEAK.

AND THE
BOLTS AND
WIRE MESH
HAD EVI-
DENTLY BEEN
WARPED BY
A GREAT
AMOUNT OF
PRESSURE.



...SUICIDE
THEN?



IN
OTHER
WORDS,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THAT IT
WAS AN
ACCIDENT.



LANDING
ON THE
FENCE
FROM A
MERE SLIP
OF THE
FOOT...

...WOULDN'T
DO THAT
KIND OF
DAMAGE.





SPYX DAYMORR COVER AM AMOZ



SPYX DAYMORR COVER AM AMOZ







PLEASE
TALK FASTER



HUH?

GOOD.
NOW
WHAT'S
THE NAME
OF THIS
SUSPECT
HERE?



UH...
UH,
IT'S...

IT'S
MADOKA
NARUMI-
SAN,
RIGHT?

NO, NOT FROM COLOR ALONE



NO,
NOT
"HUH."

YOUR
POWERS
OF OBSER-
VATION ARE
PATHETIC.

HUH?

...WHA-
MI?

AYUMI
MADOKA

NOTEBOOK SUSPECT
AYUMI MADOKA



I MEAN,
THIS YOUNG
GENTLEMAN
HERE IS...

WHAT
AM I?

...UMM,
SO
YOU'RE
SAYING
THIS
SQUIRT
HERE...

UH,
I
MEAN...







IF YOU'RE GONNA COMPLAIN, MAKE IT YOURSELF.

YOU KNOW I'M NO GOOD AT COOKING!

HEM.



MOOO!

AND IT'S INSTANT NO LESS!!

TCH.
SHE'S TALKING



HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO MAKE SUCH A DIFFICULT MEAL ON THE SAME DAY I'M ACCUSED OF BEING A MURDERER?

GAH!



...SIS, YOU SURE PUT ON A SHOW FOR WORK.

KACHA
カチャ

KACHA
カチャ

WHAT-
EVER.



GA
ガッ

YEAH, IT'S DEPRESSING ENOUGH WITH A SELFISH AND BIPOLAR OLDER SISTER AS IT IS.

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW DULL THE HOUSE WOULD BE IF YOUR OLDER SISTER WAS ALWAYS PULLING THE SOLEMN ACT?



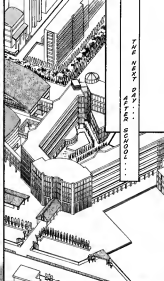
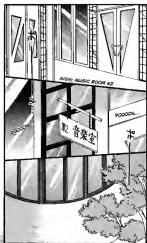






...AH.







I
ALWAYS
WANTED
TO BE
LIKE
HIM.



RAIN
CRASHING

WATER
COLLAPSED

**EVEN
PIANO!**



MY
BROTHER, WHO
EFFORTLESSLY
BECAME A
WORLD-FAMOUS
PIANIST BY HIS
TEENS...

...AND WAS
CALLED
"THE GREAT
DETECTIVE"
WHEN HE
JOINED THE
FORCE IN
HIS 20S.



I...





WHO
SMILED

I'M THE
PRESIDENT
OF THE
SCHOOL
NEWSPAPER,
HIYONO
YUIZAKI

OH,
HOW
RUDE
OF ME.

WHO
ARE
YOU?

...HUH?
SCHOOL
NEWS-
PAPER?

PRIVATE HIGH
SCHOOL TSUKIKOMI
17TH GRADER
HIYONO YUIZAKI

UP
NEXT...!

WOULD
YOU PLEASE
SHARE SOME
THOUGHTS
ON WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO KILL
SOMEONE?



DID YOU HEAR THE GUESS-TION?

WUM...

.....



I. DIDN'T. DO. IT.



はあ？あ？



...I DIDN'T DO IT.



THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S SOMEONE ACTIVELY SPREADING THE RUMOR.

HOW DID THAT RUMOR SPREAD SO FAST??

IT'S SUPER WICKED!!

BUT IT'S ALL OVER THE SCHOOL THAT BOTH GRADERS HAD TO DO IT.

SH? BUT...!

...GEEZ.

WHA??



EPISODE 10: NARUMI (REVISIT)



EPISODE 11: (CAREER)



NARUMI-SAN!

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..

WELL..







BOW (GULL) (TAKING)

BOW (GULL) (THINK)





SO THE
LEADING
ACTRESS
MAKES HER
ENTRANCE.



NO
REASON
IN PARTI-
CULAR.

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?

YOU
MURDER-
ER...

FROM KODOKU (WAGGERS)



WAGGERS,
THAT
GUY'S
NOMURA-
SAN'S BOY-
FRIEND.



WAGGERS.

WAGGERS

WAGGERS...



I JUST
WANTED
TO SAY
HELLO.







I'LL
FIGURE
OUT YOUR
LITTLE
SCHEME!

IF
YOU'VE
GOT ANY
COM-
PLAINTS—

ALL I'M
GOING TO
SAY IS
THIS...

YOU PICKED
THE WRONG
PERSON TO
MESS WITH.



SPIN: ONLY (CLANGING)



MIZUE
...?



SPIN: SAKA ERIKA (CALCULATED MURDERER)



SPIN: NO ENTRY

立人禁止

IT'S
JUST
WEIRD.



BUT
NOHARA-
SAN WAS
STANDING
RIGHT
THERE...

SHE'S
AN EYE-
WITNESS AT
THE PLACE
WHERE
THE FALL
HAPPENED.



SO
YOU
THINK
NOHARA-
SAN IS THE
CRIMI-
NAL....

I
SEE...



ACCUSING
SOMEONE OF
BEING THE
CRIMINAL SO
QUICKLY AND
WITHOUT
EVIDENCE...

...WHEN
THERE'S
STILL THE
POSSIBILITY
THAT IT WAS
JUST AN
ACCIDENT.



WHO'S THAT?

ONE OF THE EYEWIT-
NESSES.

HE
WAS
WITH
NOHARA-
SAN.



THE BEST
FRIEND BEING
THE WITNESS
SHOWS HOW
CONTRIVED
THIS ALL IS.

IF
YOU'RE
GOING TO
SAY THAT
THEN WHAT
ABOUT IKUO
TSUJII-
SAN?

MY.



...HMM.



SHE'S
THE
ONE
WHO
INTRO-
DUCED
THEM TO
EACH
OTHER.

TSUJII-SAN IS
A FRIEND OF
NOHARA-SAN'S
FROM WORK.
IT SEEMS
NOHARA-SAN
WAS TRYING
TO HOOK HIM
UP WITH
MUNEMITSU-
SAN.



AND
WHY
IS HE
WORTH
CONSID-
ERING?

WELL
HE WAS
MUNEMITSU-
SAN'S
CRUSH.



AS I RE-
CALL...



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU COULD HEAR A PIN DROP A MILE AWAY, COULDN'T YOU?

ANYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH LOVE, A GIRL'S GOING TO HEAR.



...THEN SHE DIED YESTERDAY.

BUT MUMBAI-GAN WAS HESITANT ABOUT CONFESSING, AND...



THOSE WERE ALL GIRL SECRETS!

57% BAFU COLUMNS



YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANYTHING MORE.

I TRUST YOUR INFORMATION NETWORKING SKILLS ALREADY.



SHEESH, WHAT A CHARACTER.

LIM, NA-RUMI-SAN?



I UNDERSTAND GUYS JUST AS WELL!

BUT ACTUALLY...

YOU'VE BEEN KNOWN TO CALL OUT A GIRL'S NAME IN YOUR SLEEP, MUMBAI-GAN...

57% BAFU COLUMNS



...IS
WHAT
I'M
THINKING.

TO
SILENCE
HER...

TAN

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
THE MOTIVE
COULD BE?
I DON'T
HAVE ANY
CLUES.

TAN

TAN
CLASS



I'M
CERTAIN
MUNEMIDA IS
CONNECTED
TO IT IN
SOME
WAY...

HMM...
THIS
STORY
JUST
KEEPS
GETTING
BIGGER.

BUT
ABOUT
THAT
OTHER
CASE...

IT SEEMS
MUNEMIDA
MIGHT BE
INVOLVED
WITH AN-
OTHER
CASE.

SILENCE
...?

...BUT I
HAVE THE
FEELING
MADOKA
DOESN'T
WANT ME
TO KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT.

...IT
HAS
SOME-
THING
TO DO
WITH MY
BROTHER
...?



I CAN
BARELY
MAKE OUT
THE LAND-
ING.

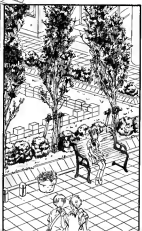


THIS IS
ABOUT
WHERE
NOWARA
AND
TAKUJI
WERE.













SO
THIS
IS THE
MELODY OF
TRUTH...

NOW
I GET
IT.

I

Spirit THE BONDS OF REASONING



DO YOU
HAVE A
MOMENT?

!



NO-
HARR-
SANI



NO
MATTER
HOW YOU
LOOK AT
THE SITU-
ATION,
HE HAS
TO BE THE
KILLER,
RIGHT?

WHY
HAVEN'T YOU
ARRESTED
HIM YET?



SAE
WOULDN'T
DO SUCH
A THING!

KANA
WOULDN'T
KILL HER-
SELF!!

BESIDES,
THERE'S
STILL THE
POSSI-
BILITY OF
SUICIDE...



ONE
MUST BE
DISCREET
WHEN
CONSIDERING
ARREST.

...KNOW
A MAN
NAMED
SONOBE?

TODAY
WE CAME
TO TALK
ABOUT A
DIFFERENT
MATTER...

DO
YOU...

YES,
WE
REMEM-
BER
QUITE
WELL.

AND
NO
EVIDENCE
RESEM-
BLING A
SUICIDE
NOTE
WAS
FOUND.

WELL
THEN?

I
TOLD
YOU
YES-
TER-
DAY,
REMEM-
BER??

THE
CRIM-
INAL...

...WAS
WITNESSED
BY YOUR
LATE FRIEND
KUMI
MOMENORI-
SAN IT SEEMS.

BUT
SHE
WOULDN'T
TELL US
WHO HE
WAS.

THERE
WAS AN
INCIDENT
IN WHICH A
MAN NAMED
SONOBE
WAS
ATTACHED
FROM BEHIND!

RIGHT
NOW HE'S
IN THE
HOSPITAL
IN A
COMA.

...WHO'S
THAT?

...HMM,
I SEE...

IT
WAS
ONE
WEEK
AGO.



HOW DARE YOU ASK ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT FROM KANAI!

IF MINE-MINE-SAN TOLD YOU ANYTHING—



IS THAT HOW I CAME OFF?

WIND (CHARLES)

...YOU SUSPECT ME?

...OFFICER, COULD IT BE...



SORRY FOR TAKING YOUR TIME!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

...I'M GOING HOME.



SPO: PROBABLY PROBABLY (SPOOKY SCENARIO)



SPO: PI (SPOOKY)





...I
KNEW
IT.



WAS
THAT
YOUR
LITTLE
BRO-
THER?

WE'VE
GOT TO
GET TO
THE
STATION
FAST.

SO
HE REALLY
IS THE
LITTLE
BROTHER
OF THE
"GREAT
DETECTIVE,"
EH?



DAWN DAWN
COMING
QUICK!



SPD: BAKASHI CORUSAKI



EH?

ISN'T IT
A LOVE
LETTER?

KASHI-
KASHI-KASHI



MORNING.

OH,
MORNING,
MIEU.

A 10TH
GRADE
BOY JUST
DROPPED
OFF A
LETTER
AT YOUR
SEAT.



NOTE: MICHIOKI MIZU-KAWA



THIS
LETTER

10

10TH
GRADE

10



AFTER
SCHOOL



WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO BEING JUST FRIENDS...

BUT... BUT...! IF HE SAYS "SORRY, NOT AFTER I ASK..."

ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY IS "I LIKE YOU, PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!" RIGHT?

WHAT FOR?



EESH? BUT I'M SCARED...



KANA-KANA! STOP BLANKING AROUND THE BUSH AND JUST TELL TSUTSI-FUN HOW YOU FEEL!



THEN YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL.

Y-YEAH...



SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GIVE UP ON TSUTSI-FUN?

I... I COULDN'T...



I'LL TAKE YOUR PLACE, KANA-KANA, AND TELL TSUTSI-FUN HOW YOU FEEL.

REALLY?



YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE GUTS TO CHECK FOR YOUR OWN APPLICATION NUMBER WHEN THE EXAM SCORES GET POSTED!

SO HERE GOES!

THIS HERE MIZUE-SAN'S GOING TO PITCH IN AND HELP YOU OUT!



SO AFTER
THAT, YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
TO WORRY
ABOUT
STAYING
FRIENDS.

IF IT
GOES SOUR,
I'LL JUST TELL
HIM IT WAS
ONLY A JOKE,
FOOLING
HIM

IF IT
GOES WELL,
I'LL FLASH
YOU A PEACE
SIGN. WHEN YOU
SEE IT FROM A
DISTANCE, THEN
YOU CAN COME
OUT ALL
HAPPY-Y!
'KAY?



IT'S THE
PERFECT
WAY FOR
YOU TO
WATCH THE
WHOLE
THING
PLAY OUT,
KANA-
CHAN



THERE
AREN'T
THAT MANY
PEOPLE IN
THE GARDEN
BEHIND THE
C-WING.

SO IF YOU
STAND ON THE
EMERGENCY
LANDING ON
THE SIXTH
FLOOR, TSURU-
KUN SHOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO
SEE YOU WHILE
YOU LOOK ON.

WOMAN: FUKUKUN (2004)



YOU
CALLED ME
ALL THE
WAY UP TO
THE ROOF
JUST FOR A
PUPPET
SHOW?



THE END.
THAT WAS
A MIYONO
PRODUCE-
TION!





MAYBE,
BUT USING
PROPS
IS A BIT
MUCH...

IT'S TOO
EMBARRAS-
SING TO
EXPLAIN IT
SERIOUSLY,
YOU KNOW?

COME
ON, THIS
IS A GLIMMER
PAGE FROM
THE PARADE
OF ADOLESC-
ENCE...



NO, THAT
WASN'T MY
INTENTION
ACTUALLY.

SHE
JUST
WENT
AND DID
HER OWN
THING.



...ARE
YOU GUYS
MAKING A
FOOL OUT
OF ME?

ANYWAY,
WHEN DID
YOU FIND
TIME TO
MAKE THOSE
LITTLE
GUYS?

THAT'S
A TRADE
SECRET.

...ART?

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
DEVOTION
IS AN
ART.



APPROX. 100 (CHANGING)

THE
REASON WHY
SHE-KANA
RUNS AWAY,
THAT IS-
WAS ON THE LAND-
ING...

...WAS
THANKS TO
THIS, YOUR
SEEDS OF
MAGIC.

OCH,
SORRY.

SHE
WAS JUST
REPRODUCING A
CONVERSATION
THAT YOU AND
THE VICTIM HAD
HAD BEFORE
THE ACCIDENT.





WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF HER
GLASSES HAD
BEEN SWITCHED
WITH A PAIR
THAT HAD
LENSES THAT
WARPED AND
DISTORTED ALL
STRAIGHT
LINES?

ONE
THAT
DIDN'T
FIT HER
EYES AT
ALL.

ONE
WITH A
DIFFERENT
PRE-
SCRIPTION.



BUT
WHAT
IF HER
GLASSES
HAD BEEN
SWITCHED
FOR
ANOTHER
PAIR?



IT WAS
THE PERFECT
CHANCE FOR
THEM TO BE
SWITCHED
WITHOUT HER
NOTICING.

NATURALLY,
SHE SIMPLY
LEFT HER
BAG, WHICH
CONTAINED
HER GLASSES,
IN THE
CLASS-
ROOM...

THAT
ANNOUNCE-
MENT WAS
ALSO YOUR
DOING,
WASN'T
IT?



THE DAY
OF THE
INCIDENT,
MUNEYUKI-
SAMA'S NAME
WAS ANNOUNCED
OVER THE P.A.,
AND SHE LEFT
HER CLASS-
ROOM AFTER
8TH PERIOD.



YOU
WORKED
IT TO GET
MUNEYUKI
UP THERE
ON THE
EMERGENCY
STAIRWELL...



BUT THE
BROKEN
FENCE
COULDN'T
SUPPORT
HER...

...AND
SHE FELL
RIGHT
OFF.



THEN ON
THE LAN-
DING...

...SHE
PUT ON HER
GLASSES AND
GOT VERTIGO
IN AN INSTANT
REACHING OUT
FOR SOME SORT
OF SUPPORT,
SHE CRASHED
ONTO THE
FENCE



YOU
MANAGED TO
PULL OFF BEING
THE CRIMINAL
AND THE EYE-
WITNESS AT THE
SAME TIME TO
GUARANTEE
YOUR SAFETY.



...AND
THEN
DETER-
MINED THE
MOMENT
SHE'D PUT
ON THE
GLASSES.



BUT THE
ONE PIECE
OF EVIDENCE
YOUR LITTLE
TRICK DIDN'T
ACCOUNT FOR
WAS THE
GLASSES.

396 GUN CRIME



AND
WHEN
YOU
DID...



I SAW
YOU HIDING
THEM
IN YOUR
POCKET.

I
SAW IT
FROM
UP
THERE.

YOU
GLADLY
RECOVERED
THE GLASSES
THAT WOULD'VE
BEEN SOLD
EVIDENCE
AGAINST
YOU.



SO YOU HAD
TO GET TO
THE SCENE
OF THE FALL
BEFORE
ANYONE
ELSE...

...TO
EXCHANGE
THE GLASSES
USED IN THE
CRIME FOR
HER REAL ONES
THAT YOU HAD
BROKEN IN
BEFORE-
HAND.



...YOU
CUT YOUR
FINGER
ON THE
BROKEN
LENS.



KAKA WAS
PUSHED
BY SOME-
BODY.

HAVEN'T
YOU READ
THE NEWS-
PAPERS?



ANYWAY,
THE FENCE
WASN'T
ABOUT TO
GIVE WAY
JUST FROM
SOMEONE
LEANING
ON IT!

DOESN'T
YOUR
EXPLA-
NATION
ONLY
SHOW
THAT IT
WAS AN
ACCI-
DENT?!

AM I
WRONG?!

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
PUSHED
KANA!
ADMIT
IT!

IT WAS
MANIPU-
LATED SO
THAT JUST
THE SLIGH-
TEST PUSH
WOULD MAKE
IT GIVE
WAY.

BUT
THE THING
IS, GREAT
PRESSURE
HAD BEEN
EXERTED ON IT,
EVEN BEFORE
KANA HUNG-
ERS WENT UP
THERE.

THE
VERDICT
THAT SHE'D
BEEN PUSHED
RESTS IN THE
EVIDENCE THAT
THE FENCE HAD
BEEN PUSHED
AGAINST
WITH GREAT
FORCE.

AND
AFTER THE
MOMENT YOU
MADE A BIG
CLIQUE ABOUT
HER BEING
PUSHED SO THAT
EVERYONE WOULD
AUTOMATICALLY
BELIEVE IT...

!?

...EVEN
THOUGH
THERE WAS
NO EVIDENCE
SUGGESTING
THAT KANA
HUNGERS
HAD BEEN
PUSHED.



YOU'RE THE
CULPRIT!





...Y-

YOU
CAN'T
TRICK
ME!

WHO'D
BELIEVE
SUCH A
LIE?



...IN
THOSE
LENS
FRAG-
MENTS...



SORRY,
KIDDO.



THERE WAS
A PIECE OF
MISMATCHING
LENS STUCK
INTO THE
VICTIM'S
EYE.



...THERE WERE
MISMATCHED
SHAPES AND
PRESCRIPTIONS
ALL MIXED
TOGETHER.

JUST
SO HE
CAN AVOID
SUSPI-
CION...!

WE KNOW
YOU PUT
SOMETHING
IN YOUR
POCKET AT
THE SCENE
OF THE
CRIME.

.....
HE'S
THE ONLY
WHO SAID
THAT!

I WONDER
DO YOU
HAVE SOME
MEMORY OF
PICKING
UP THAT
PIECE?

NO
MATTER
WHOSE
TESTIMONY
IT IS...

NO
CLUES

THE
ISSUE OF
THE INCON-
SISTENCY
OF THE LENS
FRAGMENTS
STILL
REMAINS.

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOU
GUYS?!

KANA
WAS MY
BEST
FRIEND!

HOW
CAN
YOU SAY
THAT?

I COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
HAVE ANY
MOTIVE,
DON'T YOU
SEE?

...YOU'RE
UNDER
SUSPICION.



HEY
CHIBIKO!

THE
BLADE
CHILDREN.



YOU HAD
PLENTY OF
INCENTIVE.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

AND
CONSIDERING
MUNEMASA'S
SILENCE...

YOU
REALLY ARE
CONNECTED
TO THE
SONOBE
CASE,
AREN'T
YOU?



I
WONDER,
CAN YOU
REALLY
GET AWAY
WITH IT?

INCLUDING
THE GLASSES,
TOO, IT'S JUST
A MATTER
OF TIME
BEFORE SOLID
EVIDENCE
IS FOUND.

SONOBE,
MUNEMASA-
SAN... AND
THE BLADE
CHILDREN...



SHINJI KAKI (STUDIO)



NOW IF
YOU'LL
EXCUSE
ME!



WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
ANY-
THING
THAT
YOU'RE
SAYING.



DON'T
LIE TO
ME.

THAT'LL
MAKE
US
EVEN.

I'LL
TREAT
YOU OUT
NEXT
TIME.

I
OWE
YOU
ONE.

AHH.



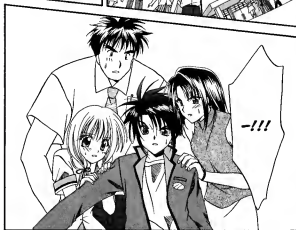
...SIS...

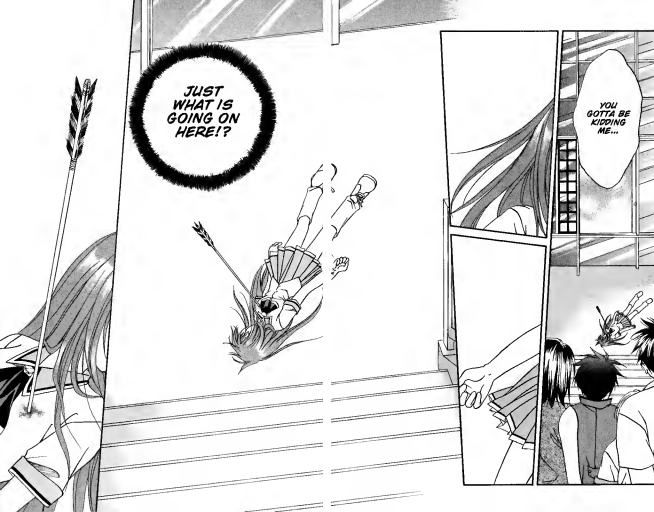


...THE LAST
WORDS MY
BROTHER
SAID TO
ME TWO
YEARS
AGO.

I HAVEN'T
FORGOT-
TEN...







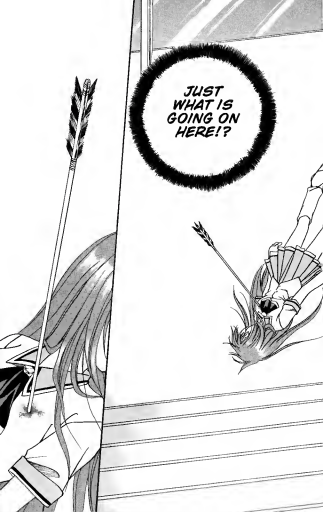
JUST
WHAT IS
GOING ON
HERE!?

YOU
GOTTA BE
KIDDING
ME...

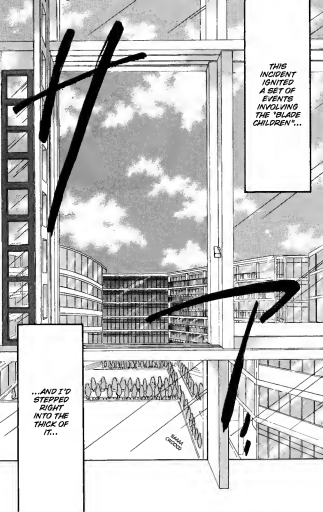


**YOU
GOTTA BE
KIDDING
ME...**





**JUST
WHAT IS
GOING ON
HERE!?**



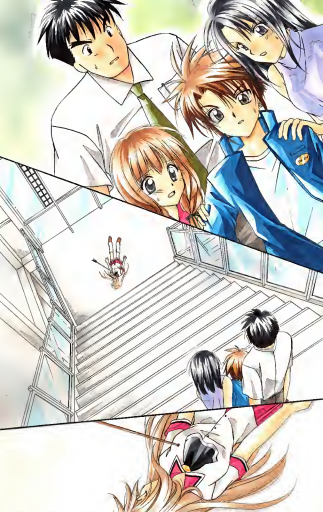
THIS
INCIDENT
IGNITED
A SET OF
EVENTS
INVOLVING
THE 'BLADE
CHILDREN'...

...AND I'D
STEPPED
RIGHT
INTO THE
THICK OF
IT...

CHAPTER THREE

Apollo's Arrow







UWA...

YOU
WITH THE
BRAIDS!
SHOW
ME THE
WAY TO
THAT
ROOM!

AYUMI!
I'M GOING
AFTER THE
KILLER SO
YOU GUIDE
ME!

U-
UWAA-
AH!

EHT?

YOU
THERE!

PLEASE
CALL THE
POLICE
AND AMBU-
LANCE
FOR US!

AND
AFTER WE
CAME SO
CLOSE!!







IT'S
YOUR
EVER-
HELPFUL
HIYONO-
CHAN!
♡



か
ほ

...!



..ACTU-
ALLY...



IS
THERE
ANY-
THING
THAT
NEEDS
DOING?



BUT OF
COURSE.



...KANA
MEMORIS
MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
INVOLVED
IN?



DO YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
ANOTHER
CASE...



AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D FOLLOW MIKE NOMURA...

...AND MAKE HER GET IN TOUCH WITH HER BUDDIES.



SPR, BUSH (TV) (2)

SUDDENLY GETTING KILLED OFF LIKE THAT IS JUST FOUL PLAY...



...YOU BETTER NOT GO STICKING YOUR NOSE INTO THIS.





SPE: SHIGEN OGIKAWA



OR ELSE
YOU'LL
OVERLOOK
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT.

YOU'RE 10
YEARS TOO
YOUNG TO
THINK YOU
CAN GO
PREACHING
TO ME!

OOFF!

ITP

BEFORE THAT (CONTAINS)

HE WAS
A 31-YEAR-OLD
BACHELOR AND
AN ENGLISH
TEACHER AT
YOGAKURA
HIGH
SCHOOL.

Yesterday morning,
a high school teacher
was attacked by a
hooligan and received
a serious blow to the
head. The male victim was
Takashi Sonobe, who had
suffered at Sonobe's
school. He is currently
in the hospital in a
critical state.

THE
VICTIM'S
NAME WAS
TAKASHI
SONOBE.



THE POLICE ARE CALLING IT A PHANTOM KILLER AND STILL INVESTIGATING.

WHY ARE WE HERE?



LET'S GO, LONKA, TOGETHER!

NOPE

AND THE WEAPON WAS A BLUNT OBJECT LIKE A BAT.

IT HAPPENED ON THE SIDEWALK NOT FAR FROM HIS HOUSE AT A LITTLE PAST 10 PM.

HE'S STILL IN THE HOSPITAL IN AN UNRESPONSIVE STATE.

© 2011 GENEI SHINJI (GAKUEN GAKUEN)



...SHE GETS KILLED HERSELF AFTER... EH?

BUT JUST WHEN SHE KILLS REMEMBERING WITH THAT TRICK OF HER...

...MOMARA WAS WITNESSED BY ALARMING WHEN SHE COMMITTED THIS CRIME ALARMING, WORRIED FOR HER FRIEND, COULDN'T HER TO TURN HERSELF IN.



AH!

I WAS ALSO ABLE TO PRICE THIS TOGETHER FROM WHAT I OVERHEARD THE COPS SAYING BUT...



THERE ARE NO SUSPECTS IN THE SCHOOL. THE BOW WAS LEFT ON THE B-WING DOOR. MOMARA-SAN DIED ALMOST INSTANTLY.

THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE.

LET'S LOOK AT WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YESTERDAY'S EVENT.



I MEAN,
IT WAS
BROKEN IN
TWO AND
JUST HELD
TOGETHER
WITH
INSTANT
GLUE AND
TAPE.

DON'T YOU
THINK THAT IN
ORDER NOT TO
BE TRACED, IT
WOULD HAVE
BEEN PICKED UP
FROM FROM THE
ARCHERY CLUB?



THEY
SAID THE
ARROW USED
ON HER HAD
BEEN BROKEN
RIGHT IN
THE MIDDLE.

...WHAT
WAS
THAT?



SHIN ARCHERY RANGE

IT WAS
YOU!!
YOU'RE
THE ONLY
THAT COULD
BE THE
KILLER!!!



HMM...



WHAT'S THAT OLD MAN THINK HE'S DOING HERE?

I THOUGHT I HEARD TELLING.

...DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD LET THEM BE?



YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL WHO COULD HAVE SHOT AN ARROW RIGHT THROUGH THE CHEST OF THE VICTIM!

WHY WOULD I DO THAT TO MYSELF...!?



HAAA...



SP-01: GOSHU (GOSHU)



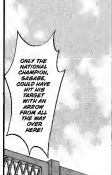
SP-02: SHUN (SHUN)





AND HE WAS
MISU
NOMURA'S
BOY-
FRIEND,
TOO!

IT'S
JUST
TOO
SUSPI-
CIOUS!



ONLY THE
NATIONAL
CHAMPION,
SERABE,
COULD HAVE
HIT HIS
TARGET
WITH AN
ARROW
FROM ALL
THE WAY
OVER
HERE!



OH, SHE'S
ENJOYING
HER MORNING
BATHS,
CHUGGING HER
BEER, AND
HAVING A
BALL WITH
HER VIDEO-
GAMES.

I'M SURE
THAT AS
WE SPEAK
SHE'S
SUFFERING
FROM BEING
CUT OFF
FROM THE
CASE!

OH, WAITER,
PLEASE
SERVE THE
CRIMINAL
FOR ME!

I'LL
EXPOSE
THE
CRIMINAL
IN THE
LIEUTE-
NANT'S
PLACE!!



THE
KILLER
DIDN'T
SHOOT
IT FROM
HERE.

DON'T
LOOK AT
ME LIKE
THAT.
I'M NOT
THE BAD
ONE HERE.

AND
AT THE
TIME OF THE
INCIDENT,
THERE WAS
A STRONG
CROSS WIND
BLOWING.

A STRAIGHT
LINE FROM THE
ROOFTOP HERE
IN THE B-WING
TO THE PLACE
WHERE NOMURA-
SAN WAS KILLED
IN THE A-WING IS
APPROXIMATELY
100 METERS.



CAN YOU
SEE THE
PLACE
WHERE
WE FOUND
HER FROM
HERE?

SEEING
HOW DARK
IT IS OVER
THERE,
THERE'S NO
WAY A SHOT
COULD'VE
BEEN
AIMED.

NOT TO
MENTION THE
DISTANCE.

IT
WOULD'VE
BEEN A
MIRACLE
TO HIT THE
TARGET
FROM
HERE.









...NO.

COULD IT BE... AN IMPOSSIBLE CRIME?



KASAHARA CRAYTLIO

I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE HERE.



EH? AH, OKAY.

THAT'S TRUE.

HEY, YOU.

IF WE DON'T LEAVE NOW, WE'LL MISS LUNCH.



OF THOSE THREE, WHO MADE THE CALLS TO THE COPS AND THE AMBULANCE?

EH...

OFFICER.

OH, AND OLD MAN... I MEAN...



NOT TO MENTION... THERE'S NO PLACE BETWEEN THE ROOF AND THE STAIRWELL FOR ANYONE TO BE HIDING!

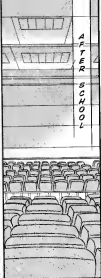
EVEN IF IT WAS A MIRACLE, IT STILL GOES TO SHOW THAT THE MURDERER COULD HAVE ONLY KILLED FROM THIS VERY SPOT!







YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO PLAY
ANY-
THING?



AFTER
SCHOOL



IT FEELS LIKE
YOU'VE ALREADY
FIGURED OUT
THE CRIMINAL'S
IDENTITY AND
EVERYTHING
ELSE, TOO.

STILL...

THERE'S
THE
MATTER OF
MOTIVE...

I KNOW IT'LL
ONLY STIR UP
UNPLEASANT
MEMORIES.



THE TRUTH IS...



IT'S HUYONG-CHAN'S LATEST INFORMATION!

HEARING THIS WILL KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF... ☆



HMM-HMM-HMMMM...

WELL, THEN...

ああああ
AAAA

AND IF HE WAS TO DISCOVER THAT MUNEMASA LIKED HIM IN RETURN, THAT ANGER JUST...

AND NATURALLY, THAT PERSON WOULD BE VERY ANGRY TO HEAR THAT HONGARI-SAN KILLED MUNEMASA-SAN.

THERE WAS SOMEONE WITH A CRUSH ON MUNEMASA-SAN.



MY BAD. SORRY.

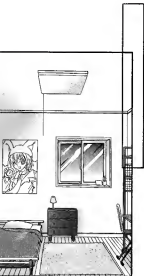
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT THAT WAY, YOU KNOW!



...WHAT IS IT?

NO-THING...

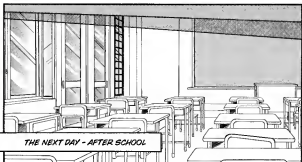
I WAS JUST THINKING, IT'S SCARY HOW YOU ARE.



...OKAY
THEN.

LET'S
CALL MY
SISTER
AND GET
THIS CASE
SETTLED.
SHALL
WE?

h
f
HATA
(CLACK)





SPR. BOBO (STUFF)



SPR. BOBO



SPR. SH CONVERS



DO YOU...













TO MAKE
AN ESCAPE
FOR HER-
SELF



WH-

WHY
WOULD
MOMARA
HAVE
TO FAKE
HER OWN
DEATH?



YOUR
JOB WAS TO
MAKE IT EASY
TO GET US AWAY
FROM THE SCENE
OF THE CRIME
AND DELAY THE
DISCOVERY OF
THE FAKE
DEATH.

THE LONGER
WE TOOK, THE
MORE OUR
WATCH OVER
HER WOULD
SLACKEN, AND
HER ESCAPE
WOULD BE
EASIER.

SHE
DEvised A WAY
TO DIVERT OUR
ATTENTION FROM
HER SO THAT
SHE COULD
RUN AWAY TO
SAFETY.



SHE KNEW
SHE WAS
BEING
TRACKED
MORE
CLOSELY
THAN SHE'D
EXPECTED...

...SO SHE
THOUGHT
SHE ONLY
HAD ONE
SOLUTION.



YOU TOOK
ADVANTAGE
OF HER
SCHEME.



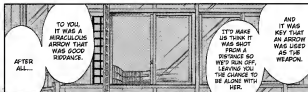
SHE
NEVER
ACTUALLY
EXPECTED
SHE'D BE
DYING THAT
DAY.

THE ARROW
SHE USED
COULD HAVE
EVEN BEEN
HUNG OUTSIDE
THE NEAREST
WINDOW.



IF YOU
COULD KILL
HER, THAT
WAS GOOD.
AND EVEN
IF NOT,
YOU HAD
NOTHING TO
LOSE.

IT
WAS A
GAMBLE
WITH A 90%
CHANCE OF
SUCCESS.



AFTER
ALL....

TO YOU,
IT WAS A
MIRACULOUS
ARROW THAT
WAS GOOD
REDDANCE.

IT'D MAKE
US THINK IT
WAS SHOT
FROM A
DISTANCE SO
WE'D RUN OFF,
LEAVING YOU
THE CHANCE TO
BE ALONE WITH
HER.

AND
IT WAS
KEY THAT
AN ARROW
WAS USED
AS THE
WEAPON.



...IT WAS
APOLLO'S
ARROW.









AFTER
ALL, WE'RE
BOTH
"CURSED
CHILDREN,"
THE BLADE
CHILDREN...



THERE'S
NO USE
BEING A
HYPO-
CRITE.

HMPH...



AND IT'S
NOT LIKE
YOU HAD
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
KANA'S
MURDER.



I COULD
CARE LESS
ABOUT
THE OTHER
THINGS
SHE'D DONE
BUT...

...I JUST
COULDN'T
FORGIVE HER
FOR KILLING
MAREN...

ONE
GROUP?



...I
COULDN'T
FORGIVE
HER...







WAVE, BURBANK! (WAVEPOO)!



WHAT ARE
THE "BLADE
CHILDREN"?

AH?



THAT
TOPIC'S
OVER TWO
YEARS
OLD.

GOOD
QUESTION.
MY BROTHER
DROPPED
THAT NAME
AND DISAPP-
EARED.

A
F
E
W
D
A
Y
S
L
A
T
E
R



HE'S
REALLY
STARTING
TO
IRK
ME!

HE
STILL
REFUSES
TO
TALK.



HOW'S
TSUGU
DOING?



GUESS WE'RE
STUCK WITH
THE REASON
BEHIND
SONOBE'S
ATTACK
REMAINING A
MYSTERY

.....



...THE
BLADE
CHILDREN...

KIYOTAKA-
SAN... JUST
WHAT ARE
YOU AFTER?





FORMER PRESIDENT OF A
CHEMICAL PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPANY
ISAMU SAGAMI

THE
"BLADE
CHILD-
REN"...

...YOU MEAN
TO SAY YOU
WANT TO
AWAKEN THE
CURSE OF
THAT CHILD?



SHY (SAGAMI (SAGAMI))



FIFTY
MILLION...

I'LL
TAKE IT ON
FOR FIFTY
MILLION.

TRANSLATOR
TACHIBANA AKIOMI

CHAPTER FOUR

Room Behind the Ward Lock (Part I)





BOOKS IN: JUDICIAL BOOKS, BOOKS IN: JUDICIAL
POLITICAL, POLITICAL, JUDICIAL, BOOKS IN:
EVERYTHING ABOUT BOOKS





...WHAT...
ARE YOU
DOING?

OOO...

GOYE
CORREDO

NYAH
...!



...!!

YEAH, WELL
COULD YOU
AT LEAST
KEEP YOUR
DOOR
CLOSED?

COULD
YOU AT
LEAST
KNOCK
BEFORE
ENTER-
ING??



YEP, IT'S
REALLY
LOCKED...

SFX: GACHA GACHA

SFX: GACHA (BATTLE)





SAYO-
CHAN, COULD
YOU HOLD
THIS FOR A
SEC?



AH,
THAT'S
IT!



HOW
SHOULD
I DO
THIS...?

NAME



MUSIC COLLEGE
STUDENT
AGE
SHIRAKAGITANI

NAME: SAYO (THINK)



...WITH
THIS
PEN...

NAME: TONY (PENDING)



...I'M
GOING
TO DO
THIS!

NAME: KA (GLAD)



WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING TO
DO, KEI-
CHAN?

PRIVATE SCHOOL
TEIKOKU
8TH GRADE
SAYO
SHIRAKAGITANI





THERE'S...

*THERE'S
SOMEONE ON
THE GROUND!*

*A
MURDER
BEHIND
CLOSED
DOORS...?*





THE
OWNER OF
THE MANSION
IS HAIJOU
SHIRANA-
GATANI,
AGE 71.

HE'S THE
FORMER
PRESIDENT
OF THE
PHARMA-
CEUTICAL
COMPANY
BAREL.



...LET'S
SEE...

THAT'S
WHAT THE
FIRST
REPORT
SAYS...



...AND THE
HOUSE-
KEEPER,
REIKO
HATSU-
YAMA.



...HE'S
NICE,
MUSIC
COLLEGE
STUDENT,
KEL...



THEN
THERE'S
HIS GRAND-
DAUGHTER,
SAYOKO...



THOSE
ARE THE
ONLY FOUR
RESIDENTS
OF THE
MANSION.





...AND THE
KEY HAD
BEEN PUT
IN FROM
THE INSIDE
OF THE
DOOR.

BUT
TODAY WAS
THE FIRST
TIME IT
WAS EVER
LOCKED...

EVERY
MORNING...
BEFORE
GOING TO THE
DINING HALL,
I BORROW A
BOOK FROM
THE LIBRARY.



...I
SUDDENLY
GOT THE
URGE TO READ
THE FIANC
ALCHEMIST
GLENN
GOULD'S
COLLECTION
OF WORKS.

WHEN
I WOKE
UP THIS
MORNING...



...HOW
ABOUT
YOU?



SHE
HOLDS ALL
THE KEYS
TO THE
MANSION.

...I
DISCOVERED
THE DEAD
BODY AND
WE WENT
TO CALL
REIKO-
SAN.



WHEN I WENT TO
GET IT, I FOUND
SAYO-CHAN
CONFUSED IN FRONT
OF THE DOOR, SO
I PUSHED THE KEY
OUT OF THE HOUSE
SO I COULD GET A
LOOK INSIDE.

THAT'S
RIGHT...



I HEARD
THEIR
STORY AND
OPENED
THE DOOR
TO THE
LIBRARY.

KEI-SAMA
RUSHED
OVER AND
CONFIRMED
THAT SHE
WAS NOT
BREATHING.



WHEN THE
TWO OF THEM
CAME TO ME,
I WAS IN THE
MIDDLE OF
PREPARING
THE MORNING
MEAL IN THE
DINING
HALL....

IT WAS
JUST PAST
6:00 O'CLOCK.



I DON'T
USUALLY
LOCK THE
LIBRARY
ROOM, BUT
SINCE THE
WINDOW AND
DOOR ARE
LOCKED BY
THE SAME
KEY...

...THERE
WAS ONE
IN THE
LIBRARY
AND THE
ONE THAT
I WAS
HOLDING...



AFTER THAT,
WE FOLLOWED
THE PRECISE
INSTRUCTIONS
OF GOING TO
OUR
RESPECTIVE
ROOMS.

WHERE
WERE
ALL THE
KEYS YOU
WERE IN
CHARGE
OF?



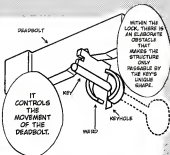
THERE
ARE NO
OTHERS
BESIDES
THEM.

TWO
IN ALL.



MIKI: DATA (CLING)





SPY: KOTEN (GLAD)

SPY: POMU (SPY)





AS LONG
AS IT'S LIKE
THIS, THE
LOCK CAN'T
BE OPERATED
FROM
OUTSIDE.



HAHA...IF
YOU USED
A STRONG
ENOUGH
MAGNET TO
MOVE THE
LEVER...

THAT
WOULDN'T
WORK.

BOTH
THE LOCK
AND KEY
ARE MADE
OF COPPER
ALLOY.



...STILL,
USING A
KEY TO
LOCK A
WINDOW
IS RATHER
RARE.



THROUGH
THE
WINDOW
THEN?



...THE
CONDITIONS
ARE THE
SAME AS
THE LEVER.

THERE'S
NO KEY-
HOLE ON
THE OUT-
SIDE BUT...



UNLIKE A
REGULAR
WINDOW LOCK,
BREAKING
THE GLASS A
LITTLE TO FIT
YOUR HAND
THROUGH AND
OPEN IT ISN'T
AN OPTION.



IT'S TO
PREVENT
BREAK-
ING.

SO NO
NEED FOR
ALIBIS,
HM?

THE ASSUMED
TIME OF DEATH
IS BETWEEN
THE HOURS OF
3 AND 5 AM.

THE CAUSE
OF DEATH CAN
BE SEEN QUITE
CLEARLY—SHE
SUFFERED A
CEREBRAL
CONCUSSION
FROM HITTING
THE CHAIR.

ANOTHER
DEAD END.

HEH...
NO THE
MAIN KEY IS
STUCK IN THE
DOOR AND
THERE'S
NO WAY...

THAT
CAN'T BE
COMPLETELY
WRITTEN
OFF YET.

WHAT
ARE THE
CHANCES
THIS DEATH
WAS
ACCIDENTAL?

LIGHT-
BRIGHT.

...THERE'S
NO REASON
SHE'D DRAW
THAT.

IF IT
HAD
BEEN...

A
MURDER
BEHIND
LOCKED
DOORS,
EH...?

IT
COULD BE
THE NAME
OF HER
KILLER.

THE
LAST
WORDS
OF THE
VICTIM...

HER
DYING
MESS-
AGE...



SO THE
VICTIM,
ADACHI-SAN,
CAME TO
READ UP ON
MATERIALS
FOR HER
WORK, IS
THAT
RIGHT?



YESTERDAY
WAS ONE SUCH
CASE. SINCE
IT STARTED
TO RAIN HARD
WHILE SHE WAS
HERE, I HAD
HER SPEND
THE NIGHT.

SINCE SHE
COULDN'T
BORROW
TITLES FROM
MY PRECIOUS
COLLECTION, SHE
HAD TO ASK FOR
PERMISSION
TO COME.

YES.



I WAS
AWOKEN AND
INFORMED OF
THE INCIDENT
AFTER THE
CALL HAD
ALREADY BEEN
MADE TO THE
POLICE.

WHERE
WERE YOU
WHEN THE
BODY WAS
DISCOVERED?

IN
MY
BED-
ROOM.



...IN
OTHER
WORDS, THE
MURDERER IS
ONE OF THE
RESIDENTS.

CONSIDERING
THE STATE OF
THE MANSION'S
MANAGEMENT, I
CANNOT THINK
THAT THE
MURDERER WAS
ANY OUTSIDER.



...THIS
IS VERY
HARD
TO SAY
BUT...



IT'S
NARROWED
DOWN TO
JUST FOUR
PEOPLE.



WE BELIEVE SHE WAS TRYING TO LEAVE US A CLUE AS TO THE KILLER'S IDENTITY.



ACCIDENTALLY...

...IN HER LAST WAKING MOMENTS, THE VICTIM LEFT A DRAWING OF A SQUARE SPIRAL ON THE CURSET



THERE WAS SOME KIND OF STRUGGLE, AND WE THINK THAT SHE SMASHED HER HEAD AGAINST THE CHAIR FROM MOMENTUM.

IT WAS WHILE THE VICTIM WAS READING, LATE INTO THE NIGHT, THAT THE KILLER DROPPED IN ON HER.



WE BELIEVE THIS WAS THE LAST BOOK SHE WAS READING...

PERHAPS



IT HAS THE SAME DESIGN.

AND THE NAME OF THAT DESIGN IS "RAIMON."









WHO'S
THAT?



I WANT
TO ASK
YOU SOME
THINGS
ABOUT
HISUE
NOHARA.



SHE'S
SOMEONE
WHO WAS
PROMISED
HELP
IN ESCAPING
BY THE OWNER
OF THE
"SHINOBUKI
MANOR."



IN
OTHER
WORDS,
YOU.

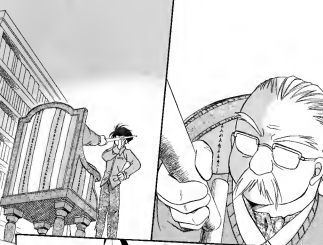


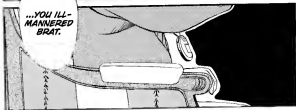
IN OTHER WORDS, THE "SACRED TREE OF DEATH."

IT MEANS "DEATH."

IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY, THE YEW TREE IS A SACRED TREE FOR THE GODDESS HEKATE.







THEY WERE
BEING PRETTY
RUDE AND
GOT KICKED
OUT...

ARE THOSE
TWO KIDS THAT
JUST SHUCK
IN, FRIENDS OF
YOURS, SUDO-
CHAN?

??
??
HMMMM?

AAAH...
BUT
STILL...

NO,
I DON'T
KNOW
WHO THEY
WERE.

AAH,
KEI-
SAN.

I SEE.

I
REMEMBER
SEEING
THAT KID
SOMEWHERE
BEFORE...

WHAT CAN I DO?

THE "BLADE CHILDREN" ARE AN ENIGMA AS ALWAYS.

THERE'S NO INFORMATION AT ALL REGARDING THE CASE...

...AND MY SIS WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH THIS LATEST CASE?

...SHE'S TRYING TO PULL THIS OFF HERSELF.

WHAT WAS MY BROTHER THINKING, TOO?

...EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HER ABOUT THE MANSION...

SHUN
CHIRPO







...EXTORTION.

WORK, RELATIVES, FRIENDS... I CAN'T SEE THAT KIND OF MONEY COMING FROM ANY OF THOSE SOURCES. WHAT I'M THINKING IS...



THEN RECENTLY, HER FAMILY DOCTOR SAID THAT SINCE SHE HAD ENOUGH MONEY, SHE'D BE UNDERGOING THE SURGERY!



...MEANING THAT...

SAY IT, DON'T SAY IT.

IT'S JUST LIKE SOMETHING THE BLADE CHILDREN WOULD DO!

THEY'RE POWERFUL, ALL RIGHT!

THAT NIGHT, THE TWO OF THEM WERE QUARRELING OVER MONEY.

YES, AND THE ONE INVOLVED MUST BE RAIZOU SHIRAMA-SATAN!



...HAVE AMNESIA?

...COULD THIS YOUNG GIRL...



SO I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES PRIOR TO THAT.

MY GRANDFATHER SAYS THAT IT WAS DUE TO THE SHOCK OF FALLING DOWN THE STAIRS WHEN I WAS 12.

EPH: 54 (LEFT)



NOT TO MENTION THE STRANGE EVENTS THAT HAVE HAPPENED RECENTLY.

IT'S JUST I'M UNSURE...

MY GRANDFATHER TAKES WONDERFUL CARE OF ME, SO I'M NOT SAYING I'M UNHAPPY OR ANYTHING...



AND WHAT'S MORE, I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING MY PAST AT ALL.

NOT EVEN A PHOTOGRAPH.

WHenever I TRY TO LOOK FOR CLUES, MY GRANDFATHER STOPS ME...



LONG BEFORE THESE INCIDENTS, THE TWO OF THEM CAME TO ME ASKING ABOUT THE BLADE CHILDREN.

...FIRST IT WAS THE MURDER OF HISUS KENMURA-SAN SOME DAYS AGO.

THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO ADACHI-SAN YESTERDAY.



KITA
COMPLETED

IT SEEMS
THE TWO
OF THEM
KNOW
SOMETHING
ABOUT MY
PAST...

...AND...



SINCE I
DIDN'T KNOW,
TO TELL THEM
ABOUT MY
CONDITION, AND
ALL THEY'D
SAY IS
'NOT'...



AND I
THOUGHT
PERHAPS
YOU DO,
TOO.



CAN
I RELY
ON
YOU?

I WANT YOU
TO GATHER
AS MUCH
INFORMATION
CONCERNING
THE CASE AS
YOU CAN.



ROGER
THAT!!





IT MAY BE
BECAUSE OF
MY MEMORY,
BUT MY
FAMILY AND
HAPPINESS
NEVER
FELT REAL
ANYWAY.

...YOU DO
REALIZE THAT
THE TRUTH
COULD VERY
WELL...

THAT'S
WHY...

ALL OF
IT FEELS
LIKE SOME
QUICKLY
SLAPPED-
TOGETHER
FACE...

...SHATTER
YOUR
PERCEPTION
OF YOUR
FAMILY AND
HAPPINESS.
DON'T
YOU?

...I DON'T CARE IF IT'S
SHATTERED.

HEY,
LIEU-
TEN-
ANT.



GETTING DISCOVERED THERE LIKE THAT FIRMLY NARROWED DOWN THE SUSPECT LIST AND WAS OBVIOUSLY DANGEROUS TO THE CRIMINAL, RIGHT?

WOULDN'T A KILLER USUALLY HIDE IT WHERE IT WOULDN'T BE FOUND?

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT SAYOKO-SAN WENT THERE EVERYDAY.

WHY DO YOU THINK THE MURDERER LEFT THE BODY IN THE LIBRARY?



AND FINALLY, WAS THERE SOME SPECIAL PURPOSE TO USING THAT LOCKED ROOM?

EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD POSE SUCH A DANGEROUS THREAT TO THE KILLER'S ANONYMITY, WHY WOULD IT BE LEFT THERE?

NOT TO MENTION THE DYING MESSAGE IS PRETTY ODD.



DON'T TELL ME YOU FIGURED IT ALL OUT ALREADY, LIEUTENANT...

AND THAT HAS CANCELLED OUT ALL MY DOUBTS.

IT'S A SIMPLE TRICK OF TIME DIFFERENCE.

I WONDER WHAT TRICK HE USED ON THE DOOR AND WINDOWS.



THIS IS
ALL THE
POLICE
DATA
RELATING
TO THE
INCIDENT.



DONE.

STAGE: QUINCYCLAM CLUB



OPPOSITE: BROWN (BANKU)



IS YOUR
GRAND-
FATHER...?



I JUST
WANT TO
MAKE
SURE OF
ONE
THING.

OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.



IT'S A
SECRET
OF THE
TRADE.

AND JUST
HOW DID YOU
GET A HOLD
OF THAT?



I FELT THAT
THERE WERE
A LOT OF
STRANGE
THINGS IN
THAT LOCKED
ROOM.

AND
SOMETHING
MISSING.



YES,
THAT'S
RIGHT.

BUT HOW
DID YOU
NOTICE?

WELL, IT'S
NOTHING
BIG...
JUST...



OH,
AND YOUR
SISTER...

THAT'S
RIGHT. WHAT
SHOULD'VE
BEEN THERE
WASN'T.

AND
THAT
MUST
MEAN...



...DID SAY
IT WAS A
MATTER OF
TIME DIFFER-
ENCE...





CHAPTER FIVE

Room Behind the Ward Lock (Part II)





JUST
WHAT KIND
OF PERSON IS
YOUR OLDER
BROTHER,
NARUMI-
SAN?

?

?

UM...



AND THE
H.Q.'S
GREATEST
DETECTIVE
BY HIS
20s ...

...A
WORLD-
FAMOUS
PIANIST
BY HIS
TEENS...





OFFICERS,
WHAT IS THE
MEANING
OF CALLING
EVERYONE TO
THE LIBRARY
LIKE THIS?!



...OH,
HO.

YOU'RE A
CONFIDENT
ONE,
AREN'T
YOU?



WE'RE
HERE TO
ARREST
THE
CRIMINAL.



*NOW
THE ROOM
BEHIND THE
WARD LOCK
HAS BEEN
OPENED...*

*...AND THE
SUSPECTS
HAVE BEEN
NARROWED
DOWN TO
ONE SINGLE
PERSON.*

*BUT
SINCE THERE
WAS A CORPSE
THERE'S NO
MISTAKING THAT
THE CRIMINAL
PLAYED SOME
TRICK OR
ANOTHER.*



*ALL YOU
HAVE FOR
EVIDENCE IS
THE LIKENESS
BETWEEN MY
NAME AND
THAT RAYMON
PATTERN.*

*THAT'S
NOT
ALL.*



*AT THE
TIME THE
BODY WAS
DISCOVERED,
THE ROOM
TRULY WAS
A LOCKED
ROOM.*

IT CAN'T
BE OPENED EVEN
IF THERE WAS
A BRASS KEY.
THERE'S NO SPACE
FOR A THREAD TO
FIT IN, AND THERE
IS NO WAY THE
LOCK'S LEVER CAN
BE OPERATED AT A
DISTANCE.

THERE-
FORE...

THIS IS
HOW THE
DOOR WAS
AT THE TIME
THE BODY
WAS DIS-
COVERED.

HOW-
EVER...

THE
MURDERER
WAS
PRESENTED
A HOLE.

AS
LONG AS
IT REMAINS
LIKE THAT,
THERE IS NO
WAY IT CAN
BE LOOKED
FROM OUT-
SIDE.

B-BUT!

YOU
JUST
SAID
THERE
WASN'T
ANY
OPEN-
ING!

FROM
THERE, THE
CRIMINAL WAS
ABLE TO PASS
A THREAD
THROUGH AND
MOVE THE
LOCK'S LEVER
FROM
OUTSIDE.

A
SINGLE
MOMENT'S
CHANCE!

IT WAS
AN OPENING
IN TIME AND
SPACE THAT
MADE FOR A
BLIND SPOT.

**THE
KEY-
HOLE!**

...AH!

AT
THAT
MOMENT,
THE
LOCKED
ROOM
WAS NO
MORE...

AND A
HOLE LARGE
ENOUGH
FOR A
THREAD
WAS
OPENED.

PRECI-
SELY.

IN ORDER
TO TAKE A
LOOK INSIDE,
KEI-SUN
PUSHED THE
KEY OUT
FROM THE
OTHER SIDE
OF THE
DOOR.

SPR. AM (CLACK)

ARE YOU
SAYING THAT
WHEN I
LOOKED IN
THROUGH THE
KEYHOLE, THE
CRIMINAL WAS
STILL IN THE
ROOM?

**BUT
BEFORE
THAT, THE
ROOM
HAD BEEN
COMPLETELY
LOCKED!**

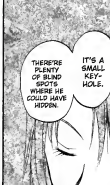
THE KEY HAD
BEEN STUCK
IN IT FROM THE
INSIDE...



HE THEN
USED THE
SHORT TIME
HE HAD
WHEN YOU
TWO WENT
TO GET
REIKO-SAN
TO FLEE THE
ROOM.



AND SINCE THE
KILLER WAS
ON THE OTHER
SIDE, IT'S
OBVIOUS THAT
HE INSERTED
THE KEY AND
LOOKED IT
HIMSELF.



THERE'RE
PLENTY
OF BLIND
SPOTS
WHERE HE
COULD HAVE
HIDDEN.

IT'S A
SMALL
KEY-
HOLE.

SAF. SAKURA OKAYASHI



SUCH
PRECISE
TIGHTROPE
WALKING, AS
THEY CALL
IT, IS NO
EASY THING
TO PULL OFF.



THROUGH THE NEW
KEYHOLE MADE, HE
PRESSED A TURRET
THROUGH, MOVING
THE LEVER, AND
MANAGING TO
ENCRYPT.



HAD THE KILLER
FLED WITHOUT
LOOKING FROM
OUTSIDE, YOU
WOULD KNOW
THAT SOMEONE
HAD BEEN IN
THE ROOM WHEN
YOU HAD PEEKED
INSIDE.



IS THERE
SOME REASON
HE RISKED
BEING FOUND
JUST TO USE
THE LOCKED
ROOM?

BUT WE
COULDN'T
COME BACK
BEFORE
HE'D
FINISHED.



...NOW
THEN.



TO AVOID
THAT, THE
GUILPT
NEEDED TO
USE THE
LOCKED
ROOM...

BECAUSE
AT THAT
TIME, THERE
WAS ONLY
ONE PERSON
LOOKING
INSIDE THE
LIBRARY.

AND
THAT'S
WHY I'VE
NARROWED
IT DOWN
TO ONE
SUSPECT.

SPY, MIZUKI (GUEST)



YOU
MUST
ALL BE
WONDERING
WHO THAT
PERSON
IS.



SO
THE
CRIMI-
NAL IS...



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
THAT SHE COULD
HAVE STAYED IN
HERE JUST AS
THE TWO OF YOU
WERE ON YOUR
WAY TO THE
DINING HALL.



REIKO-
SAN,
TOO.

REI-SAN AND
SAKURO-SAN
ARE OF COURSE
OMITTED FROM
THE LIST OF
POSSIBLE
CANDI-
DATES.



IT
COULDN'T
BE ANY-
ONE
ELSE!



...RAIZOU
SHIRANA-
GATANI-
SAN.



.....



AN
ARGUMENT
BROKE OUT,
AND IN THE
END, SHE
WAS KILLED
BY BRUTE
FORCE.

YOU
WERE BEING
THREATENED
BY ADACHI-
SAN, SO WHILE
EVERYONE WAS
FAST ASLEEP,
YOU STOLE DOWN
TO THE LIBRARY
AT A LITTLE
PAST TWO IN
THE MORNING TO
TAKE CARE OF
BUSINESS...



IT
WOULD HAVE
BEEN MORE
CONVENIENT
FOR ME TO DO
IT SOMEWHERE
THE BODY
WOULDN'T BE
FOUND SO
THAT I COULD
CLEAN UP THE
MESS.

I KNOW FULL
WELL THAT
SAYOKO
COMES TO
THE LIBRARY
EVERY
MORNING.



THAT'S
FULL OF
HOLES.



IT'D BE
EASY TO
HIDE THE
BODY

EVEN IF I HAD
LEFT HER IN
THE LIBRARY,
THE DYING
MESSAGE
COULD BE
COMPLETELY
ERASED.



WHEN
IT COMES
TO CARPETS,
IT HAS TO BE
DEALT WITH
IMMEDI-
ATELY.

HOWEVER,
THE BLOOD-
STAIN COULD
NOT BE
COMPLETELY
REMOVED...



AND
THERE'S NO
WAY OF PULLING
OFF SUCH A
TASK IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE
NIGHT WITHOUT
BEING NOTICED
BY SAYOKO-
SAN AND THE
OTHERS.

TO DO
THAT, THE
FURNITURE,
TOO, WOULD
HAVE HAD
TO BE
REMOVED.



IT'D
BE TOO
DANGEROUS
TO RISK.

...NOW
WHY WOULD
I OPT TO NOT
RUN AWAY
AND RATHER
HIDE INSIDE
THE ROOM
UNTIL SAYOKO
CAME?



THE
REASON YOU
COULDN'T
ERASE
HER DYING
MESSAGE IS
BECAUSE YOU'D
DEAL WITH THE
CARPET ISSUE
AFTER-
WARD.

TO
AVOID HAVING
TO CLUMBSY
MOVE THE
BODY, YOU
DECIDED TO
WORK THINGS
OUT AS WE
HAVE JUST
BEEN WHILE
NOBODY WAS
AROUND.



SO THAT
THE BODY AND
BLOODSTAINS
WOULDN'T
BE FOUND BY
HER, YOU HAD
TO LOCK THE
LIBRARY.

IT'S
BECAUSE
SAYOKO-
SAN
WOULD
COME.



...BUT
YOU MADE
ONE MISCAL-
CULATION.



KNOWING
SAYOKO-SAN'S
PERSONALITY,
YOU THOUGHT
SHE WOULDN'T
DARE PUSH THE
KEY OUT TO
PEEK INSIDE.



TO AVOID
THAT, IT WAS
NECESSARY
THAT YOU
STAY IN THE
ROOM AND
INSERT THE
KEY FROM
THE INSIDE.

BUT THE
KEYHOLE
WAS STILL
GOOD FOR
PEEKING.



I'M
SURE
YOU WERE
SUITE
SUR-
PRISED.

AND
BEING THE
OUTGOING GIRL
THAT SHE IS,
SHE DIDN'T
HEESITATE TO
KNOCK OUT THE
KEY AND GET A
GLANCE AT
THE BODY.



THAT
MORNING,
KEI-SAN HAD
DECIDED TO
COME AS
WELL.



THAT'S
WHEN THE
IDEA OF
IMPROVISING
BY USING THE
LOCKED ROOM
CAME TO
MIND.

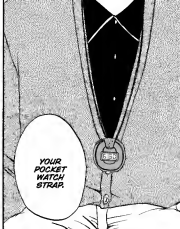


YOU'RE
ALWAYS
CARRYING
ONE.

EVEN IF I
SUDDENLY HAD
FORGOTTEN TO
USE THE
LOCKED ROOM
TRICK, IT'D
HAVE TO BE
CARRYING A
GOOD ENOUGH
TOOL LIKE A
"THIN
THREAD" AS
YOU SAY.

AND
YOU WERE
CARRYING
ONE.

...THERE'S
STILL A
PROBLEM,
THOUGH.



*YOUR
POCKET
WATCH
STRAP.*



*I'M
NOT
THE
KILLER.*

*...HOW-
EVER...*



*WHAT
DID YOU
SAY...?*



*...IMPRES-
SIVE.*

*BY YOUR
METHOD OF
SUPERIOR
DEDUCTION, I
CERTAINLY AM
THE KILLER.*





IT MAY
BE A FINE
LIBRARY
BUT THE
CASSETTE
TAPES
STOOD
OUT.



THE
SHELVES
IN HIS
STUDY.



WHAT
MAKES YOU
THINK
SHIRANA-
GATANI-SAN
IS BLIND?



AND HIS
POCKET
WATCH.

IT'S
NOT
YOUR
USUAL
WATCH.



IT
WAS...

NOW
THAT
YOU
MENTION
IT...



IT MAY HAVE BEEN A REACTION FROM MY WORK IN MY EARLIER YEARS THAT SIX MONTHS AGO BOTH OF MY EYES WENT BAD AND NOW I CAN'T SEE.

BOOK 0000 CHAPTER 0000



IT'S GOT AN AUTOMATED VOICE TO TELL THE TIME. A TALKING WATCH.

It is now 6:32 P.M.

BOOK 0000 CHAPTER 0000



DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY?

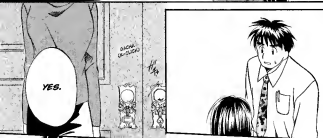


NOW THEN.



IT'S GOTTEN TO THE POINT THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT AROUND MY OWN MANSION WITHOUT REIKO HERE.

ONE (NEXT)





REPA-
LISHED IN
ANOTHER
EDITION
OCTOBER
1995 '99



THE MELODY
OF LOGIC
WILL POINT
OUT THE
TRUTH
WITHOUT
FAIL.

Just what are the "Blade Children"!?



Eyes Rutherford takes the stage!



Just who is this boy!?



More mysteries await Ayumu and friends in the next volume!!

To be continued. Please wait!

The Spiral Notes

VOLUME 1
RELEASED



EVERY DAY I
MEAN TO DRAW
AS DILIGENTLY AS
POSSIBLE BUT MY
ABILITIES HAVEN'T
IMPROVED
WHATSOEVER.
FFFFUCK.



BUT WHEN I THINK
ABOUT HOW A MANGA
THAT I'VE CREATED
IS SITTING THERE ON
BOOKSTORE SHELVES,
I FEEL MORE EMBAR-
RASSMENT THAN
HAPPINESS.



HELLO.
THIS
IS EITA
MIZUNO.
SPIRAL
VOLUME 1
IS NOW ON
SALE.



WITHOUT
THEM,
HE'D BE A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
PERSON!



IN ANY
CASE, HIS
HIGH POINT
ARE HIS
SIDE-
BURNS!

MIS
PERSON-
ALITY! WELL,
I'M NOT
GOING
TO
TALK
ABOUT
THESE
FEEL-
INGS
ANY
MORE.
SHIROGANE
GENJI IS
YOU WANT
TO KNOW.



OH, WELL.
SINCE I'VE
DEVOTED
MYSELF
MOST TO
THE IMAGE
OF AYUMI
MIZUNO,
I THINK
I'LL TALK
A LITTLE
ABOUT
HER.

IN THE
SPIRAL
VOLUME 1
IS NOW ON
SALE.



IMAGINING...



NEXT TIME I'LL TALK ABOUT MORE RELEVANT THINGS... SO I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN!

SPECIAL THANKS!

THANKS TO
ALL THE
FANS WHO
READ MY
STORY

THANKS TO
ALL THE
FANS WHO
READ MY
STORY



AND SO ENDS MY STORY ABOUT SIDEBURNS.

A F T E R W O R D

Hello. This is Kyo Shirodaira. Thank you very much for purchasing this comic.

Looking at the fan letters I've received, I think there may be some confusion. I'm the creator of the *Spiral* story, not the one who draws it. I don't do the inking or apply the screentones. I'm just the one who sends Mizuno-san the story in writing and has him draw this cute manga.

Actually, I first made my debut with a novel. It was a long mystery that I wrote called *A Rose to the Great Detective* published under the Tsogen Mystery Collection. As for what kind of story it is, it's a sad detective novel about a fear poison called "Children's Hell" and a character called Miyuki Segawa, a great but aloof detective. But depending who you are, you might not be able to stop laughing. Because it's part of a book collection, it's small and cheap. . . and it's not very long. If those of you reading this book picked it up, it'd make me very happy. It's selling so poorly, I could almost laugh. No, but seriously. When I wonder if there are any people out there that would praise me highly for it, people speak ill of me like enemies of my parents. Which type are you? It really is something I worked hard on to make an interesting mystery.

Also, you can see the supplementary novel I wrote for *Spiral* on *GanGan's* website (<http://gangan.square-enix.co.jp/spiral/>). It's about Ayumu's brother, Kiyotaka Narumi and his detective years. A cute girl enters the scene, too. Since I really put my heart into this piece, those of you have access to the internet, please read it!

As I'm writing, I'm thinking about how I can pull off *Spiral* to be a simultaneously manga-esque yet still interesting mystery story. The story in this volume basically followed the pattern of "murder case + reasoning + conclusion" quite faithfully (and I myself have a bit of dissatisfaction about this, believe you me) but, in the next volume, I'm thinking about getting a story with a wider meaning of "reasoning" going.

Well, I'm hoping that we meet again in the next volume!

城平京

KYO SHIRODAIRA

Omake!



100

100

p63

The honorific suffix **“sama”** is always used when addressing someone in writing even though it may not be in face-to-face encounters.

p119

“Shinoseiju” means “sacred tree of death.” This tree appears later in the volume as the yew tree.

p145

The two characters in the word **raimon** are “lightning” and “figure.” It is an architectural design pattern thought to be based on flashes of lightning.

p146

The first character of the mansion-owner **Raizou Shiranagatani**’s name is also that for “lightning.”

p186

“In the studio, he’s called Aa-chan and Aa-bo.”

The “Aa” in these nicknames comes from his first syllable “A-yumu.” The suffix of the second nickname—“bo”—means “boy.”

SEE YOU IN VOLUME 2!



SPIRAL

The Bonds of Reasoning ①

Kyo Shirodaira
Eita Mizuno

Translation: Christine Schilling

Lettering: Marshall Dillon and Terri Delgado

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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